

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT District Attorney	(2) MEETING DATE 7/23/2013	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Cindy Marie Absey--781-5821	
(4) SUBJECT Request to authorize the District Attorney to sign a renewal grant agreement (Clerk's Filed), on the Board's behalf, with the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) to receive \$180,950 for the continuing administration of a Victim/Witness Assistance Program for FY 2013-2014.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION Request to authorize the District Attorney to sign a renewal grant agreement (Clerk's Filed), on the Board's behalf, with the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) to receive \$180,950 for the continuing administration of a Victim/Witness Assistance Program for FY 2013-2014.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) State and Federal Grants	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$180,950	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$180,950	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ____ ) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. ____ )			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input type="checkbox"/> N/A    Date: <u>June 5, 2012 (and annual)</u>	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Geoff O'Quest, Administrative Analyst			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts -			

# County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: District Attorney / Cindy Marie Absey--781-5821

DATE: 7/23/2013

SUBJECT: Request to authorize the District Attorney to sign a renewal grant agreement (Clerk's Filed), on the Board's behalf, with the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) to receive \$180,950 for the continuing administration of a Victim/Witness Assistance Program for FY 2013-2014.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Request to authorize the District Attorney to sign a renewal grant agreement (Clerk's Filed), on the Board's behalf, with the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) to receive \$180,950 for the continuing administration of a Victim/Witness Assistance Program for FY 2013-2014.

## **DISCUSSION**

The purpose of victim/witness assistance programs is to reduce the trauma and insensitive treatment that victims and witnesses may experience following a crime by providing crisis and support services to all types of victims. Victim/Witness assistance program activities and services are mandated by and outlined in Penal Code Section §13835.5. Since 1984, our County Board of Supervisors has recognized the District Attorney's Office as the County agency designated to provide comprehensive crime victim and witness services to all types of victims through its Victim/Witness Assistance Division and has contracted with the State for this purpose through annual grants for Victim/Witness Assistance Programs. This grant award for \$180,950 is the same as last year's grant allocation. No County match is required as the match is met by State funds allocated for this purpose. This grant funds the salary and partial benefits of a Senior Victim/Witness Assistance Coordinator (Victim/Witness Assistant Director) and 2.0 FTE Victim/Witness Assistance Coordinator II position salaries.

## **OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT**

County Counsel has approved the agreement for form and legal effect. Operational agreements (OA) with local law enforcement and victim service partners that participate with the Program are required by the grant and are currently in place through June 2014.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Under the terms of this grant, \$180,950 is available for FY 2013-2014, the same level of funding as last year. There is no County match required. The District Attorney's Office included the expenses and revenue for this Program in its budget request for FY 2013-2014.

## **RESULTS**

This Cal EMA grant will enable the District Attorney's Victim/Witness Assistance Division to achieve its County department goals, including:

- 1) To reduce the effects of crime on victims, family members, and the community.

Personnel (victim/witness assistance coordinators) are funded to contact victims and assess their needs and offer services designed to help victims navigate the criminal justice system and help them recover from the effects of crime, to the extent that is possible. During FY 2012-2013, 3518 new victims of crime were contacted and assisted with a wide range of services, compared to 3544 the prior year. This was accomplished despite staff absences due to several extended medical leaves, and the figure does not include victims served by the Cal EMA Underserved Victim (UV) Program, which targets elder and dependent adult victims of crime. Also during FY 2012-2013, Victim/Witness staff contacted 86.5% of victims in crimes against persons cases charged by the District Attorney within an average of an 8 day target for outreach. This reflects a steady improvement over the past several years in the timeliness of Victim/Witness staff contact with victims.

- 2) To increase the criminal justice efficiency response to crime victims and witnesses.

Personnel (victim/witness assistance coordinators) confirm the victims' and witnesses' receipt of mailed subpoenas, thereby helping to ensure their cooperation with the criminal justice system and reducing expenses by saving law enforcement the time and expense required to personally serve subpoenas. We estimate continued savings of over \$400,000 per year during FY 2013-2014 by confirming subpoenas that otherwise would require personal service by the Sheriff's Civil Division. For FY 2012-2013, 96% of civilian witnesses who received mailed subpoenas were contacted by Victim/Witness staff and receipt of their subpoenas was confirmed. This exceeds the 95% target for FY 2012-2013 and reflects our continuing effort to increase witnesses' favorable experiences with the criminal justice system. Due to the unavailability of correct addresses for all witnesses, 100% confirmation of mailed subpoenas is not achievable.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Attachment 1: Grant Agreement Renewal between the County (DA) and Cal EMA for the Victim/Witness Assistance Program (Clerk's Filed)